



NHS PAY. PARITY vs DISCREPANCY

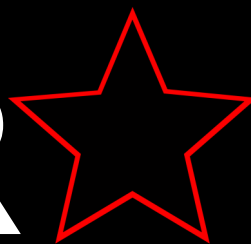


CRAIGAVON MEAT PLANT STRIKE



20th November Anniversary of Death of Durutti

BLACK STAR



SUICIDE AND



HOMELESSNESS

In another 'fuck off and die' to the working class Stormont has announced that it is 'scaling back' its mental health strategy and cutting grants for social housing. The cuts to mental health provision came simultaneously with the revelation of 290 registered suicides in 2024, the overwhelming majority working class. In the Health Minister's own words 'suicide is more prevalent in areas of social deprivation', tell us something we don't know Mike. All too many of our loved ones, our friends and relatives have died while you and your ilk sit on your privileged holes in Stormont. Of these 230 were men and 60 were women, making suicide the leading cause of death for men under 50 in the North, leaving bereavement on a larger scale than the troubles. Northern Ireland has the highest rates of suicide in the UK.

The suicide level certainly won't be helped by the announcement on housing. A lot of shit has been talked but essentially the 'plan' for new social housing won't see a fifth of the promised piddling amount of social housing built. 'Communities' Minister Gordon Lyons, with close to 50,000 on the waiting list, has announced that there is no money!

Stormont sits on strategies that are never to be implemented - the consultants get their fees, the politicians get paid but nothing of benefit is ever delivered.

The solution? Scale back government, take direct control of our services, workplaces and communities, build the necessary houses, take care of each other and end the misery that is our existence under capitalism. Abolition of state and capital is the only demand we need.

NHS PAY PARITY VERSUS DISCREPANCY



In spite of all the promises made to workers after the mass strikes of January 2024 that effectively led to the re-institution of the power-sharing executive at Stormont, delay after delay has taken place in implementing pay parity with the NHS in Britain.

Finally, last month, the Health Minister, Mike Nesbitt, on his way to retirement and a big fat pension (two at least, as he certainly has one from UTV as well), wanted to secure his legacy with agreeing to the deal that 'awards' health care workers here in the North the same 3.6 per cent as in the rest of the UK. That 'deal' was already rejected by the unions but the agreement over backdating pay has secured their acceptance. It looks like some of the money will come out of next year's budget so no doubt we'll have the

same sorry round of promises, delays and politicking before another fudge ahead of the next Stormont elections in 2027.

Whilst the talk has all been about 'parity' with other parts of the UK, this has totally neglected the issue of pay discrepancy within and across the health service. The deal does not include the lowest paid sector, the 24,000 or so (mainly women) in care homes and domiciliary care provision. Similarly, GPs here are also still unhappy about their contracts, whilst ignoring those workers who keep them and their practices going. It's high time that NHS pay discrepancy was talked about in the same breath as pay parity, some within the health service live in a different world from the majority employed in it.

CRAIGAVON MEAT PLANT STRIKE



An all-out strike called by over 150 workers at Anglo-Beef Products followed initial actions that were being ignored by management at the plant. The workers supply meat for Tesco and Sainsbury supermarkets and ABP made gross profits of almost £70 million in 2023 alone.

However, they were stalling on their offer of 3% and £100 so the workers told them to stuff it, went all-out and have finally been back in negotiations (surprise, surprise), with Unite to get a resolution. Direct action gets the goods again!



HOLY SHIT

The UK Supreme Court (an organisation that demands its judges swear oaths to 'Almighty God'!), ruled recently that schools in Northern Ireland teach a form of religious education that is 'unlawful' because it is not objective, critical or pluralist.

The ruling originated in a case taken by a man and his daughter who attended a Belfast primary school where she was indoctrinated into Christianity against her parents' wishes and beliefs. Of course, the political parties have offered their predictable round of support for our wee sectarian schools with the exception of Alliance who want more religion than just Christianity taught.

The churches here all know that they have literally captive audiences in the schools and will do everything in their power, supported by the parties, to maintain that grip. We expect them to double-down but more people need to speak out against the forced participation in the make-up fuckin' nonsense of Christianity in our schools.



The only church that illuminates - or one of many churches that reportedly spontaneously combusted on hearing of the Supreme Court decision.

WORKER SUSPENDED FOR REFUSAL TO HANDLE ISRAELI GOODS



Pickets at various Tesco stores across the North took place recently over the suspension of a worker at the Newcastle, County Down shop for refusing to handle Israeli goods. The most recent protest at the Newcastle store was attended by union and Palestine activists from across the North on Sunday 23rd of November - as we go to press more planned across Ireland for Sunday 30th of November including 1pm Tescos in Newtownbreda

and 3.30pm Tescos Newcastle.

The demand is simple immediate re-instatement of the worker and for the rights of workers to resist being compelled to handle goods tainted by Israel's genocide in Gaza. Organise! support any and all workers at the blunt end of the bosses' whims and petty vindictive shite as well as this particular case of victimisation.

'We'll give our lives before retreating'



And so, sadly, it was to be for comrade Buenaventura Durutti (1896-1936), the anniversary of whose death was marked by anarchists across the world on 20 November. In his famous speech at Bujaraloz town hall on 26 July 1936, he

rallied the anarchist column for the relief of Zaragoza from the fascists, saying 'The bourgeoisie won't let us create a libertarian communist society just because we want to. They'll fight and defend their privileges. The only way we can establish libertarian communism is by destroying the bourgeoisie. Our ideal has a clear path but we must follow it with resolve'.



Meanwhile... in Ballymena



Look, far be it fae me to slag charity but when the Spar shop over on Grove Road here in the toun announced it was doing something for 'Classroom Assistant Appreciation Day' (who knew??), I didnae get ma hopes up. Awright, I wisnae exactly thinking it was going be a bung to their absolutely derisory wages or a week's free shopping or anything like that, but for fuck's sake, 165 bars of chocolate! I'd be checking the fuckin' expiry dates. It was only last summer that the classroom assistants had their strike action suspended by the unions in light of a 'roadmap' to resolving the dispute over pay, whatever the fuck that means.

I was left wondering if the car that drove full square intae the shop not that long ago was actually driven by wan of those classroom assistants trying to take out the fuckwit manager who thought it would be a good idea to 'reward' one of the poorest paid sections of the education workforce with Mars Bars, fuckin' hope so!



Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985. We are a growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, direct democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the

richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cavan, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, Monaghan, Newry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. Contact your nearest Local or Local in formation to get involved.

Belfast Local: organiseiwabelfastlocal@gmail.com

South Ulster Local: suanorganiseiwa@mf.me

Dublin Local in formation: organiseasidublin@gmail.com

We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid. Every member is an active member.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to: organiseasi@gmail.com

